

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JOANNE CONWRIGHT,
Plaintiff,
v.
CITY OF OAKLAND, et al.,
Defendants.

NO. C09-2572 TEH
TRIAL RULES AND
PROCEDURES

To ensure the orderly and efficient presentation of evidence at trial, the parties shall adhere to the following rules and procedures unless specifically ordered otherwise by the Court.

1. EXHIBITS

When the Court recesses each day, counsel shall inform opposing counsel of which exhibits, if any, they intend to introduce during the next trial day. If any such exhibits are objected to, counsel shall immediately notify the Court. The Court will then schedule an early conference, prior to the starting time of the next trial day, to resolve the dispute.

2. WITNESSES

(a) Counsel are expected to have sufficient witnesses ready to testify each trial day. In cases where the parties have been allocated a specific amount of trial time, any delays caused by the failure to have sufficient witnesses ready shall be counted toward that party's allocated time. Counsel are expected to cooperate with each other in the scheduling and production of witnesses. Witnesses may be taken out of order if necessary. Every effort should be made to avoid calling a witness twice (as an adverse witness and later as a party's witness).

1 (b) Only one lawyer for each party may examine any single witness.

2 (c) If a witness is testifying at the time of a recess or adjournment and has not been
3 excused, the witness shall be seated back on the stand when the Court reconvenes. If a new
4 witness is to be called immediately following recess or adjournment, the witness should be
5 seated in the front row, ready to be sworn in.

6 (d) Counsel shall refrain from eliciting testimony regarding undisputed facts set forth
7 in the parties' joint pretrial conference statement. If the case is being tried before a jury, the
8 Court may read to the jury such undisputed facts at appropriate points in the trial.

9 (e) Counsel are instructed to have their witnesses review, prior to taking the stand, all
10 exhibits the counsel intends to question the witness about during direct examination.

11 (f) Immediately before each new witness takes the stand, counsel calling the witness
12 shall place on the witness stand a clearly marked copy of each exhibit that counsel expects to
13 have the witness refer to during his or her direct examination. Immediately before beginning
14 cross-examination, counsel conducting cross-examination shall do the same with any
15 additional exhibits to be referenced on cross.

16 (g) The deposition of an adverse party may be used for any purpose. It is
17 unnecessary to ask the witness if s/he "recalls" it or otherwise lay a foundation. Counsel
18 need only identify the deposition and page and line numbers and read the relevant portion.
19 Opposing counsel may then immediately ask to read any additional testimony that is
20 necessary to complete the context.

21 (h) The deposition of a non-party witness may be used for impeachment or if the
22 witness has been shown to be unavailable. For impeachment, counsel shall first allow the
23 witness to read to him- or herself the designated portion; then ask simply if the witness gave
24 that testimony; and then read the testimony into the record. Opposing counsel may
25 immediately ask to read additional testimony that is necessary to complete the context. If a
26 deposition is introduced because a witness is unavailable, counsel shall offer only relevant
27 portions of the deposition and may not offer the deposition wholesale.

(i) When the Court recesses each day, counsel shall inform opposing counsel of which witnesses they intend to call during the next trial day.

3. OBJECTIONS

To make an objection, counsel shall rise, say “objection,” and briefly state the legal ground (e.g., “hearsay” or “irrelevant”). There shall be no “speaking objections” or argument from either counsel unless requested by the Court.

4. SIDEBARS

Bench conferences, or the equivalent of “sidebars,” will not be permitted absent truly extenuating circumstances. Disputes regarding exhibits shall be resolved as set forth in paragraph 1 above. Any other disputes or problems should be addressed either before the trial day commences, at the end of the trial day, or during a recess, if necessary.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: 03/01/12



THELTON E. HENDERSON, JUDGE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT